biologist, Prof. J.B.S. Haldane felt that Telugu has all the necessary requirements to become a national language.

The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had also written a letter No. 63438/OL. 1/03, dated 10th July, 2003, to the hon. Prime Minister requesting him to declare Telugu as the national language along with Hindi and English.

So, keeping all these facts—popularity, importance and the number of prople speaking Telugu language—in mind, I beseech upon the Government of India to kindly accord national official language status to Telugu, along with Hindi and English.

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY (Karnataka): I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member.

Need to establish a Defence Manufacturing Unit at Kalamassery, Kerala

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairman, there are more than 40 manufacturing units under the Defence Department, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. But it is a matter of great regret that not a single unit could be established in Kerala State.

It is learnt that the requirement of shell, 155 mm and 135 mm, for the Defence Department is in the order of millions. It is proposed that a manufacturing unit to produce 1000 nos. per day of the above shells can be formed as a subsidiary under the Holding Company HMT Limited, Bangalore. The basic infrastructure like land manufacturing plant and administrative buildings are readily available with HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Kalamassery and can be easily acquired for the proposed subsidiary unit. The expertise to manufacture these shells is already available with HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Kalamassery as they have already designed, manufatured and supplied a number of shell manufacturing machines to different ordnance factories. Hence, almost all the machinery required for the proposed project can be designed and manufactured at HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Kalamassery.

Therefore, it is urged that the said proposal may be considered favourably and for which a detailed feasibility project study may also be conduced. ...*{Interruptions)*... Madam, this representation has already been submitted to the hon. Minister of State for Defence. He is sitting here. I request him to please give his response in this regard. Already such a representation has been made by all the unions to the hon. Minister. ...*{Interruptions)*... If he can respond now, it is well and good. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Minister is here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your sentiments have been conveyed to the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: He is the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): I have received the letter. The matter will be considered appropriately. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Immediate response.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Thank you, Madam.

Demand to save Dr. Bhubaneswar Barooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, from closure

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairman, Dr. Bhubaneswar Barooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati is a premier institute to treat the dreaded cancer disease in the whole North-Eastern Region just after the Tata Institute of Cancer in Mumbai and some other hospitals of Chennai and other places. The hospital was inaugurated on 18th November, 1973. On August 7, 1985, The Assam Government took over the Institute from the Board of Trustees. Then there was a tripartite agreement among the Assam Government, the Department of Atomic Energy and the North-Eastern Council in November 1989 to develop the Institute all round. For this purpose, projects had been taken over and first phase of the project called RPP-I was ended on March 31, 1998 at a cost of Rs. 13.11 crore. The Phase II, 1998 to 2002, called RPP-II started on 1.4.1998